41 North Church Street
Carbondale, PA 18407
April 12, 1982

Mr. Donald Ball, Jr.
Director
STEAMTOWN FOUNDATION
Post Office Box 71
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Dear Mr. Ball:

The Delaware & Hudson Railroad Yard in Carbondale, Pennsylvania would be an ideal location for the Steamtown Museum Collection. This is true for the following reasons:

1. CARBONDALE HAS THE LOCATION

The Delaware & Hudson Railroad Yard (50+ acres) is presently available. It is one of the few remaining railroad yards in Pennsylvania with a good portion of the tracks, including a wye track, in place. The railroad line that serves Carbondale at present, a branch line of the D&H, passes through that yard. The former D&H main line from Scranton to Binghamton, as well as the Scranton Division of the Ontario & Western Railroad, formerly passed through Carbondale. That being the case, many vestiges of the railroads, in addition to the D&H Yard, are still extant in Carbondale: the D&H Roundhouse (presently used for storage by John Bauman), the freight station of the O&W, the D&H freight house, the Gravity Railroad Shops (listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings). Were the entire Steamtown Musuem Collection to be driven into Carbondale tomorrow, it would appear in a natural railroad environment.

2. CARBONDALE IS IMPORTANT IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD

The city of Carbondale is intimately connected with the history of the railroad in America and would provide a rich background and setting for the Steamtown Museum Collection. By an act of the Pennsylvania legislature, approved April 1, 1825, and by an act of the New York legislature, approved April 20, 1825, the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company was organized with power "to construct and maintain such railways or other devices as may be deemed necessary to provide for and facilitate the transportation of coal to the Delaware and Hudson Canal" at Honesdale. On October 9, 1829, the first load of coal was shipped from the mines at Carbondale to Honesdale, over the Gravity Railroad. From Honesdale the coal was shipped by canal to the Hudson River. The Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale was the second rail-